



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Ann Fredericks

1603 Main Street
Sanford, ME 04073
Phone: (207) 401-4141
Ann.Fredericks@legislature.maine.gov

Good Morning Senator Ingwersen and Representative Meyer and all esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

I am Representative Fredericks of House District 143 and ask for your support to return to the past practice of a 1:1 Needle Exchange.

Five years ago, pre Covid the needle exchange was implemented with the requirement for the user to return the dirty needle. One clean needle was issued for a dirty one returned. This good practice was changed during the pandemic which resulted in upwards of 100 needles issued to an addict with no expectation for return and hundreds of dirty needles have littered our streets, trails, playgrounds, parks and beaches. These dirty needles pose the risk of needlestick to both people and pets- it's an unwanted consequence. Additionally it's a public image issue which brings cost: cost of clean-up.

This is a good bill which requires no new staff hires, no new staff training, no new software, no new equipment notable no added cost. This would restore responsibility back onto the addict and promote accountability toward a path of recovery.

Please support LD 219